

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
August 18, 2021 1:30 PM
4 Season Shelter @ Robbins Island

Members Present: Jim Anderson, Alissa Norsten, Tom Gilbertson, Rand Middleton

Staff Present: Rob Baumgarn, Rachel Centellas, Curt Hein, Chris Simon

Council Members Present: Julie Asmus

Jim called the meeting to order and took roll call.

He asked if there were any addition or deletions to the agenda. Rob omitted the Trap Range discussion because the guest speaker was not able to attend.

Jim called for a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes. Rand made a motion and Alissa seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

Jim asked if there were any public comments, there were none.

Rob briefly talked about the trap range, which he has been talking with Troy Heck, who was supposed to be in attendance today, about the City possibly taking over the Trap Range and what that would entail. Troy will be at the September meeting to further discuss and answer any questions.

Jim moved to talk about the next discussion item, the indoor gun range. Rob discussed that the options for the indoor range would most likely be to either convert to lead-free, limit the age of kids who can be in there to 6 and over, or close the range and try to "sell" the equipment. The cost to clean the indoor range starts at \$148,000 and only goes up the more cleanings and testings that need to be done. In order to go lead-free the members think it would take about 5 years to get there. There was discussion about the options for the indoor range. Tom made a motion to table this discussion and action item until the September meeting, Rand seconded. All were in favor. Motion passes.

Jim moved to talk about the playground grant application. Rob explained that each year the City applies for the MN/WI playground grant application to receive 100% matching funds on equipment. The council has passed this and if we receive the grant we can match up to \$160,000. The playgrounds set to be done this year are Pleasant view park and North Swansson. Rob will need the boards help deciding on the placement of North Swansson Park when the time gets closer.

Jim asked for Rand to talk about the Robbins Island fountain. Rand said he really enjoys the fountain at Albert Lea and would like to see something like it at Robbins Island. He talked with workers about their fountain and they told him the cost would be between \$5,000 and \$12,000 depending on the size of the fountain. And then there are repair costs, monthly utility costs and Public Works would need to do the installation and up-keep. Discussion was had about the fountain and options for funding and the work.

Jim asked Rob to give an update on the Glacial Ridge Curling Center. They have designed their facility and will be next to the Events and Recreation Center. Rob went through the layout and look of the facility. The next step will be to meet with City staff and the City attorney to talk about responsibilities.

Next up was the Invest in Willmar updates. Rob went through a presentation showing different pictures of each project. First up was Robbins Island. All of the shelters have started work and are set to be done this fall. Work at Swansson Fields has finally begun, but still have some decisions to be made. The Rec Fields and Turf fields have both seen a lot of progress the last couple weeks with lots of dirt being moved. And the Events & Recreation Center will start taking shape after Labor Day.

Rob talked about the Coordinators reports and asked if there were any questions on them. There was discussion about the pool and how the summer went.

Board member Anderson asked if Rob could keep the board updated if there are any Covid restrictions and to have the option for a GoTo Meeting for the next meetings.

Jim asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom mad a motion and Alissa seconded. All were in favor.

Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.